



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 08 2006

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords:

I am following up on the question you asked me at the September 7, 2006, hearing before the Committee on Environment and Public Works on federal renewable fuels programs. At that hearing you asked me to respond to you in writing with an update on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision on International Paper Company's Title V permit modification at its pulp and paper mill in Ticonderoga, New York. I appreciate your continued interest in this issue.

The final date by which EPA must determine whether or not to object to the permit application submitted to us by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) is Monday, September 11, 2006. We will contact you soon afterwards to let you know what decision we have reached. In the meantime, let me assure you – as EPA Regional Administrator Alan Steinberg described in a letter he sent to you on August 23, 2006 – that EPA is working closely with NYDEC on this issue and we will be present should the trial burn occur to ensure that it is conducted in accordance with approved test methods and guidance and is representative of future operating conditions.

Again, I appreciate your interest in this issue. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may call Diann Frantz, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-3668.

Sincerely,

William L. Wehrum
Acting Assistant Administrator